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## V. DISCUSSION OF THE FIRST THREE PAPERS

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Since the time of my own graduation from the university, it has been a matter of some solicitude with me that there has been, not only among the students, but also among the faculty, a turning-away from classical study, with an undue emphasis of other lines of university work. And it is because from my own experience, I believe in the value, the great value, of classical training as a preparation for the practice of the law, and because I deprecate the tendency to which I have alluded, that I came out here this afternoon to give such a reason as I might for the "faith that is in me."

It is hardly worth while to discuss further the proposition which is before us, because the argument lies in a narrow compass, and it has already been set forth fully and forcibly. However, as conviction generally depends more upon feeling and upon personal testimony than upon any logical process of argument, it may be worth while to say a word about my own experience as determining my point of view.

It is almost thirty years since Professor D'Ooge gave me my entrance examination in Latin and Greek. I liked classical study, and for that reason, and for no other, I have continued to read the classics ever since; without pursuing any systematic course, I have I think in every year since I left college, and in most of the months of every year, read more or less Greek and some Latin.

In this connection I wish to record a doubt as to the advisability of casting aside classical studies at so early a stage in the college course as seemed to be suggested by Dean Hutchins. You can get the discipline by the end of the freshman year; but unless you have much better preparation in Latin and Greek than it was my lot to have, no man who has finished his freshman year has gotten or is able to get the cream of what is to be had from the study of these languages. You must be able to read at sight—you must be independent of Liddell and Scott; and such a command, of Greek at least, cannot be acquired without a longer preparation. The ability to read Greek and Latin at sight has, in my estimation, a value aside from the disciplinary for professional purposes; in that way, and in that way only, can one get the close and intimate knowledge of literature, which after all is most essential. I dismiss consideration of the disciplinary effect for that is common to all studies involving hard intellectual labor.

Fundamental in the work of the lawyer is the investigation of truth. This investigation he carries on under great disadvantages, because his material is the infinite multitude of facts of human life continually shifting and varying, imperfectly understood at the best, and subject to continual modifications. He can carry on no exact experimentation in his work, and his instru-

ment in his investigation is language considered as a vehicle for the exact expression of thought. I know that it is commonly thought that the lawyer is not primarily concerned with the investigation of truth, but rather with the success of a particular cause of interest; I had that opinion myself when I began practicing, but any professional man who is worth his salt, if he ever held that opinion, changes it before he achieves substantial success. Primarily the interest of the lawyer is the interest of his client, but every lawyer who attains any great measure of success comes to realize that he best fulfils his professional duty who serves his client with full recognition of his higher allegiance to the truth.

For the purposes of this investigation he must learn to pick out from the mass of circumstances, relevant and irrelevant, essential and unessential, the controlling facts. He must learn to see them clearly, and to perceive them in all their relations and bearings uninfluenced by imagination or by sympathy, but making due allowance for the effect of imagination and sympathy upon others. A prime characteristic of the classical literature, and particularly the Greek, is an ever-present sense of measure and proportion, clear perception of the idea in mind and adequate expression of it, a perfect command of all the resources of expression and of all the powers of the mind, so that no one either dominates or is dominated by another. The study of such literature to the point which I have suggested, when you can really sense it without looking through the pages of the dictionary, will give, as I think, better than anything else can give, the ability essential for professional success. In this connection it has been suggested that Latin is of more importance than Greek. With that point of view I cannot agree; for the purposes I have indicated, Greek seems to me to be more important than Latin.

As social relations become more complex and the huge accumulation of material resources and of the apparatus of material civilization grows ever greater—so grows the difficulty of attaining real knowledge and mastery, and so grows the need of it. And so also, the importance of the profession of the law increases as an interpreting and co-ordinating power. And so too grows the necessity of a sound method of classical training for those who would discharge the full measure of service that the profession owes to society.

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## VI. CONCLUDING REMARKS

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Aside from the point of view of the professions, the value of the humanistic studies as making life worth living ought to be emphasized. These studies are of more value than any others for the character which they give to life.